

Melinda Is In This Story



Played

Sam and his friends played. They played with a ball. They played in the sand. They played with a dog. They went down the slide.

They had a great time.

Read-Aloud! Grade Level: 0-1
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Robot

"Can I have a robot?" said Cody.

"A robot could play games with me."

"A robot could read books to me."

"A robot would be neat."

Read-Aloud! Grade Level: 0-1
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Saw a Cat Look

"I saw a cat look at a bird. I saw the bird look at the cat," said Sam.

"I don't know what they could have been thinking. Cats and birds are usually not friends."

Read-Aloud! Grade Level: 0-1
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Airplane

"When I get older, I want to learn how to fly an airplane," said Sam.

"I will fly it up into the sky and look down on the world. It will be so fun."

Read-Aloud! Grade Level: 0-1
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Cody Went to a City



By Clark Ness

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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.4

Fiction



Falling Star

One night Cody was outside with his dad.

"Help, help!" they heard from up in the sky.

"Look, Dad. A star is falling," said Cody.

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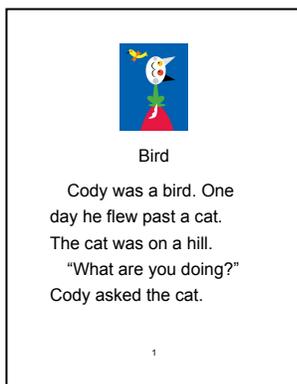


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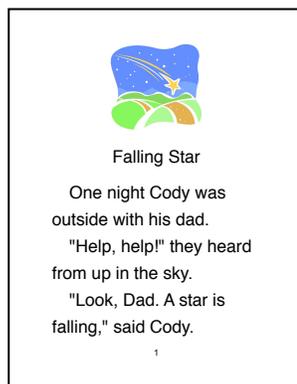


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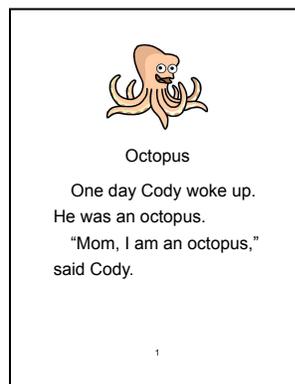
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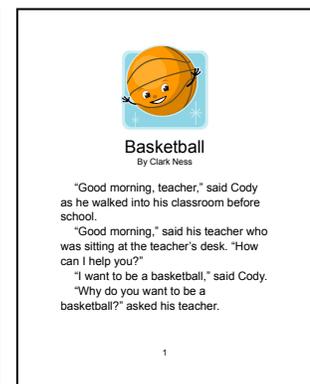
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Played

Melinda and her friends played. They played with a ball. They played in the sand. They played with a dog. They went down the slide.

They had a great time.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.8

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Two Cows

“I saw two cows,” said Melinda.

“The two cows saw me. I like these two cows. I hope the two cows like me.”

“Moo,” said the two COWS.

“Moo,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.8

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Race

Melinda likes to race.

One day she was in a
race. She ran and ran.

She ran fast. Melinda won
the race. She was happy.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.7

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Saw a Cat

“I saw a cat,” said
Melinda.

“I wish I was a cat. I could
run fast. I could climb
trees.”

“It would be neat to be a
cat,” she said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.5

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Out of the Water

Melinda was a fish. One day she swam fast. She went so fast that she jumped out of the water.

She went up high. She could see far and wide. She had fun.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.3

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Fox

Melinda went for a walk and met a fox.

“How do you do?” said Melinda to the fox.

“I do very well, thank you. It is a nice day for a walk, isn’t it?” said the fox.

“Yes, it is,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.2

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Crocodile

One day Melinda woke up. She was a crocodile. She went to school. She scared her teacher.

Her friends thought she looked cool.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.0

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Singing Flower

Melinda is a flower. She loves to sing. She is a singing flower. She sings and sings.

Melinda thinks that singing is fun.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.0

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Christmas Tree

Melinda helped with the Christmas tree. She put candy canes on it. She put balls on it.

Her dog helped too. The tree looked great.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.9

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Read a Book

“I think I will read a book,” said Melinda. Soon she was done.

“I think I will read some more,” said Melinda.

Soon she was done reading seven books.

“That was fun,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.8

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Ice Cream Truck

“I hear the ice cream truck coming,” said Melinda.

“I hope it stops by my home.”

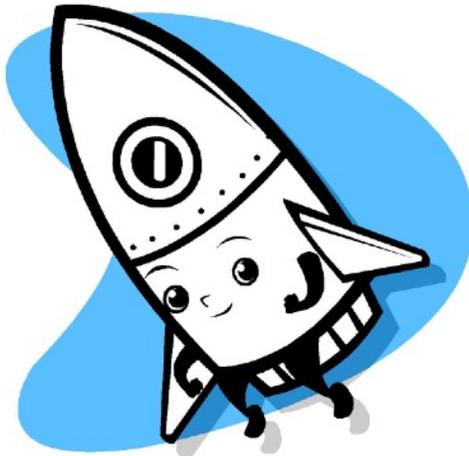
“I want to buy an ice cream treat.”

“It will taste so good.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.6

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Rocket

“I want to be a rocket,”
said Melinda.

Poof! She was a rocket.
Whoosh! She flew up into
the sky and went to the
moon.

“Now that was fun,” said
Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.6

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Surfing Dog

Melinda is a cool dog.
She has a surf board. She
loves to go to the beach
with her surf board. She
goes surfing at the beach.

Melinda thinks surfing is
cool.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.6

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Cat Lover

Melinda is a cat lover.
She loves cats. She loves
big cats.

Melinda loves little cats.
She loves pretty cats. She
loves ugly cats. Melinda
loves all cats.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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Dog Lover

Melinda is a dog lover.
She loves dogs. She loves
big dogs.

Melinda loves little dogs.
She loves pretty dogs. She
loves ugly dogs. Melinda
loves all dogs.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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Fly to School

One day Melinda said, “I think I will fly to school today.”

She put on her flying suit. She flew to school.

“Wow! You flew to school,” said her teacher.

“It was easy,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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Happy Cat

“Can you see me?” said
Melinda.

“I am a cat.”

“I am a happy cat.”

“I am Melinda the happy
cat,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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Happy Dog

“Can you see me?” said
Melinda.

“I am a dog.”

“I am a happy dog.”

“I am Melinda the happy
dog,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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Rhino

Melinda is a rhino. She likes to play soccer. She can kick the ball. She can score a goal.

Melinda likes being a rhino.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.4

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A Deer

Melinda went for a walk.
She was very quiet. She
looked.

She saw a baby deer. It
had spots on its back.

Melinda was glad that
she saw a baby deer.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.3

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Pet Dragon

“I want a pet dragon,”
said Melinda.

“It could play with me.”

“It could read books to
me.”

“A pet dragon would be
neat,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.3

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Owl

Melinda went for a walk
and saw an owl.

It sat up in a tree.

The owl said, “*Whoo,
whoo, who, who.*”

“I think that owl just said
hello to me,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.2

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Horse With Wings

One day Melinda
became a horse with
wings.

She flew to her school.
Melinda took each of her
friends for a ride up into
the sky.

They all had fun.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.1

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Astronaut

“I want to be an astronaut,” said Melinda.

“I want to go out in space.”

“It would be neat to go to the Moon.”

“It would be neat to go to Mars.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.0

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Happy Turtle

This is Melinda. She is a happy turtle. She likes to run.

“I am a happy turtle. I like to run,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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Giraffe

“I am a giraffe,” said Melinda.

“I like to go on hikes.”

“I wear a hat. I take a pack.”

“I use a walking stick.”

“It is neat to be a giraffe,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.2

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Bubbles

Melinda made bubbles.

Some bubbles were big.

Some bubbles were small.

Melinda made a lot of
bubbles. She had fun.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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Chicken

“I saw a chicken,” said Melinda.

“She wore glasses and had a book.”

“She was reading to her chicks.”

“I wonder if all chickens can read?” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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Horses

Melinda saw two horses.
One horse was brown.
One horse was white. The
horses were big.

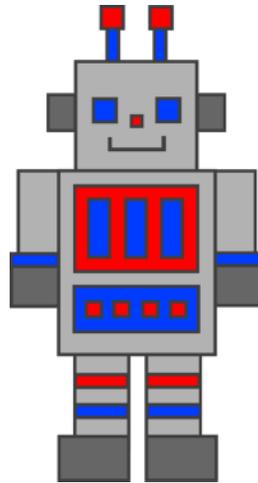
Melinda liked seeing the
horses.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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Robot

“Can I have a robot?”
said Melinda.

“A robot could play
games with me. A robot
could read books to me.
A robot would be neat.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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Sheep

“I saw a sheep near my home,” said Melinda.

“It was knitting a sock.”

“I told the sheep that it was a nice sock.”

“The sheep smiled and kept on knitting,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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Snow Skiing

“I want to go snow skiing,” said Melinda.

“It would be so much fun.”

“I would be out in the nice cold snow.”

“I could go fast.”

“Snow skiing would be a blast,” she said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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Rabbit

“I want to be a rabbit,”
said Melinda.

“I would have two long
ears.”

“I could hop and hop.”

“I would even like to eat
carrots,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.2

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Cowgirl

“I am going to be a cowgirl,” said Melinda.

“I will have a rope.”

“I will ride a horse.”

“I will herd my cattle.”

“It will be neat to be a cowgirl,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.3

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Bear

Melinda went for a walk and met a happy bear.

The bear wore boots, mittens, and a stocking hat.

“It must be a cold day,” said Melinda.

“Yes, it is,” said the bear.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.5

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Soccer Ball

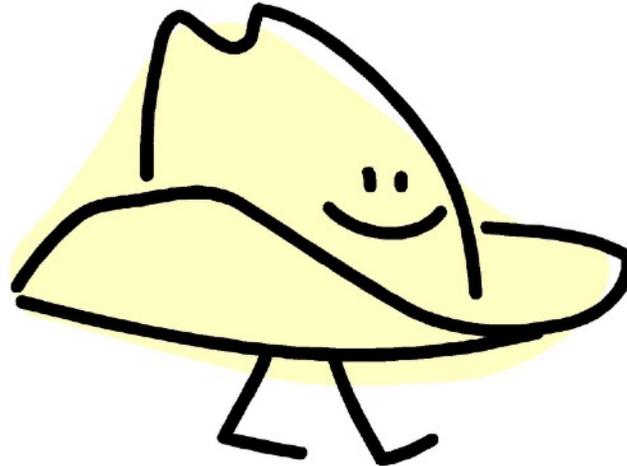
Melinda has a soccer ball. She plays soccer with it every day.

“I love playing soccer. It is a great sport. Soccer is fun,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.5

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Hat

Melinda saw a hat walk by.

“Where are you going?” asked Melinda.

“I am going to a cattle ranch,” said the hat.

“I want a cowboy to find me so that I can become a real cowboy hat.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.7

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Rat

One day Melinda saw a rat.

“That rat is on a skateboard,” said Melinda.

“I love to go on my skateboard,” said the rat.

“Hope you have fun,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.7

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Safari

“I went to Africa,” said
Melinda.

“I went on a safari.”

“We drove out in a jeep
and saw a rhino.”

“It was so neat.”

“I took a lot of pictures.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.7

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I Have a Pencil

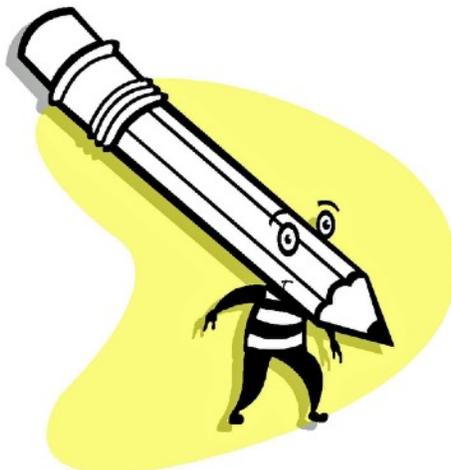
“I have a pencil,” said Melinda. “I use it every day. I write stories with it. I answer questions. I solve math problems.”

“My pencil is a great tool to have.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.9

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Pencil

One day Melinda woke up. She was a pencil.

“I think I will write a story,” said Melinda. She wrote a story. It was about being a pencil.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.9

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Pink Elephant

“I saw a pink elephant,”
said Melinda. “It had a
green balloon and wore a
yellow hat.”

“There was a bird sitting
on its back. I wonder
where it was going?” said
Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.9

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Saw a Cat Look

“I saw a cat look at a bird. I saw the bird look at the cat,” said Melinda.

“I don’t know what they could have been thinking. Cats and birds are usually not friends.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.9

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Snake

“I think I would like to be a snake,” said Melinda.

“It would be fun to slither along the ground.”

“I would hunt for food and have a good life.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.9

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Elephant

“I went to a pet shop,”
said Melinda.

“I got a nice elephant. I
took my elephant home.”

“Mom said it was too big
for me to keep.”

“So I took the elephant
back,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.0

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Monsters

“I saw three monsters today,” said Melinda.

“They were happy monsters going for a walk.”

“I wonder where they were going?” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.0

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Pet Shop

“I am going to go to a pet shop,” said Melinda.

“I will see all kinds of animals there.”

“I will see fish, cats, dogs, mice, and birds.”

“It will be fun to go to a pet shop,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.0

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Singing Apples

“I went to the store. I saw some apples. Three of the apples jumped up and sang a song to me,” said Melinda.

“I had never seen singing apples before.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.1

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Happy Snowman

“I am a happy snowman,” said Melinda.

“I wear a hat and a scarf, and I hold a broom.”

“My nose is a carrot.”

“I am happy to be a snowman,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.2

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Snail

“Last night I had a dream. I dreamed that I was a snail,” said Melinda.

“I was a happy snail, but it took a long time to get anywhere.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.2

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Singing Fish

“I want to be a fish that can sing,” said Melinda.

“I would sing songs about the sea.”

“I would sing songs to sailors and to people who go fishing.”

“It would be fun to be a singing fish,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.6

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Airplane

“When I get older, I want to learn how to fly an airplane,” said Melinda.

“I will fly it up into the sky and look down on the world. It will be so fun.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.7

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Kangaroo

Melinda is a kangaroo.
She likes to play basketball.
She can jump. She can
shoot.

Melinda likes being a
kangaroo.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.9

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Lemonade

Melinda made some lemonade. She set up a lemonade stand. She sold lemonade to her friends and family.

Melinda made \$5.00 in one day.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.9

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If I Were a Dog

“If I were a dog, I would want to be able to drive a car,” said Melinda.

“I would put on my yellow hat and get in my red car. People would smile when I went by.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 2.0

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Submarine

“I went on a submarine,”
said Melinda.

“We went down
underwater.”

“I saw all kinds of fish.”

“It was fun to go on a
submarine.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 2.0

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Treehouse

“I am going to build a treehouse,” said Melinda.

“It will be so much fun.”

“I will have a good view and get to see birds and little animals every day.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 2.5

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Helicopter

“I want to fly a helicopter,” said Melinda.

“It would be neat to fly it up in the sky.”

“I could help save people by flying a helicopter.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 2.8

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Opened a Book

“I opened a book last week and a pirate story came out,” said Melinda.

“It was a very good story about pirates and pirate ships. I liked the part about buried treasure.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 4.4

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Hippo

Melinda saw a hippo. It was on a unicycle. It was playing a violin.

“Be careful when you play your violin on a unicycle,” said Melinda to the hippo.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 4.7

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Melinda Saw



By Clark Ness

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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

Fiction

Cat



Melinda saw a cat.

It was a big cat.

“I saw a cat,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big cat,” she
said.

Bat



Melinda saw a bat.

It was a big bat.

“I saw a bat,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big bat,” she
said.

Rat



Melinda saw a rat.

It was a big rat.

“I saw a rat,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big rat,” she
said.

Ant



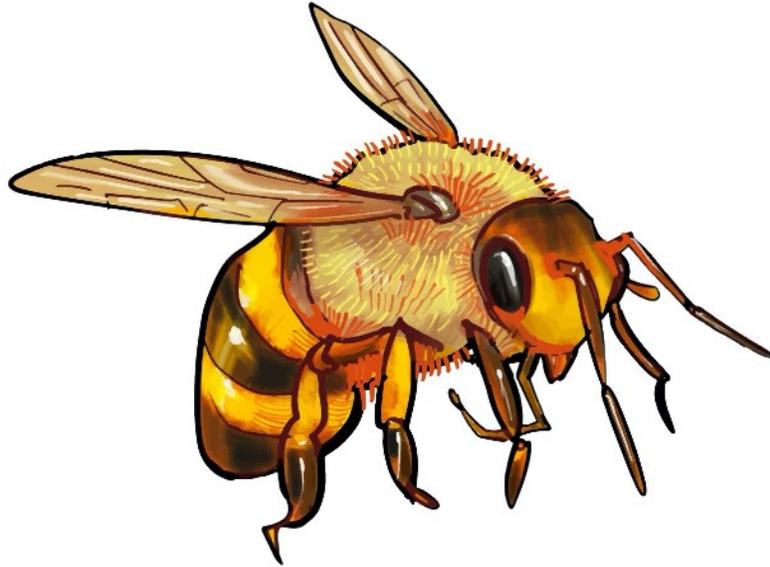
Melinda saw an ant.

It was a big ant.

“I saw an ant,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big ant,” she
said.

Bee



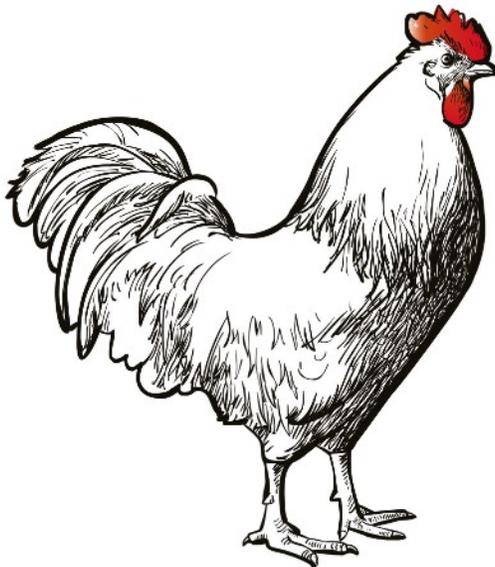
Melinda saw a bee.

It was a big bee.

“I saw a bee,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big bee,” she
said.

Hen



Melinda saw a hen.

It was a big hen.

“I saw a hen,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big hen,” she
said.

Elk



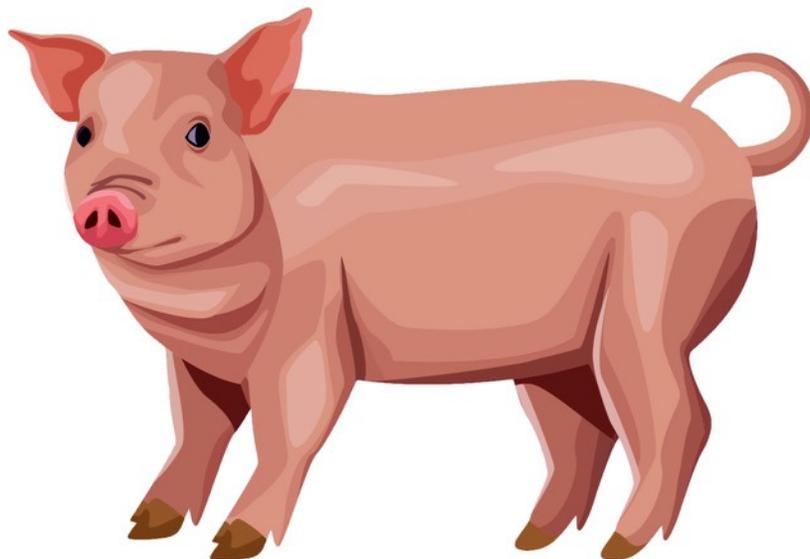
Melinda saw an elk.

It was a big elk.

“I saw an elk,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big elk,” she
said.

Pig



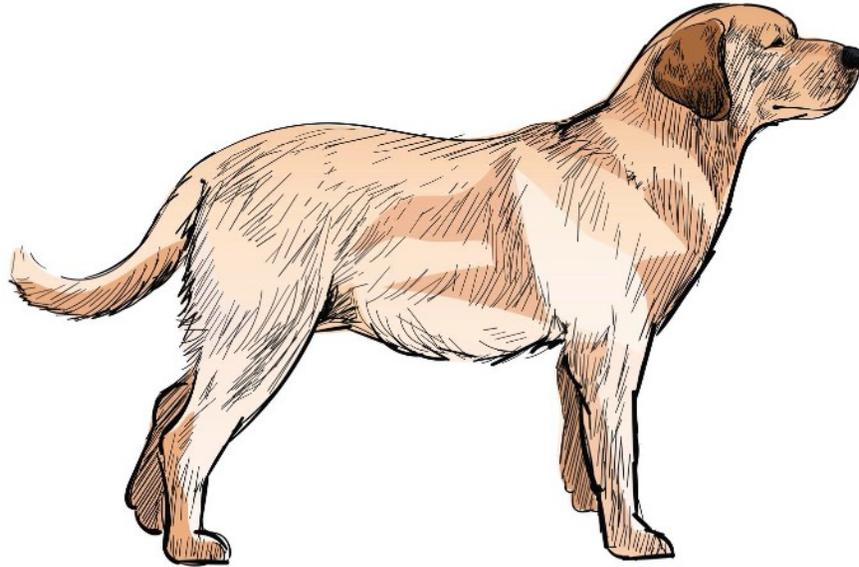
Melinda saw a pig.

It was a big pig.

“I saw a pig,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big pig,” she
said.

Dog



Melinda saw a dog.

It was a big dog.

“I saw a dog,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big dog,” she
said.

Cod



Melinda saw a cod.

It was a big cod.

“I saw a cod,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big cod,” she
said.

Fox



Melinda saw a fox.

It was a big fox.

“I saw a fox,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big fox,” she
said.

Cow



Melinda saw a cow.

It was a big cow.

“I saw a cow,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big cow,” she
said.

Owl



Melinda saw an owl.

It was a big owl.

“I saw an owl,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big owl,” she
said.

Bug



Melinda saw a bug.

It was a big bug.

“I saw a bug,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big bug,” she
said.

Pup



Melinda saw a pup.

It was a big pup.

“I saw a pup,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big pup,” she
said.

Fly



Melinda saw a fly.

It was a big fly.

“I saw a fly,” said
Melinda.

“It was a big fly,” she
said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

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Melinda Saw a Cab



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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

Fiction

Cab



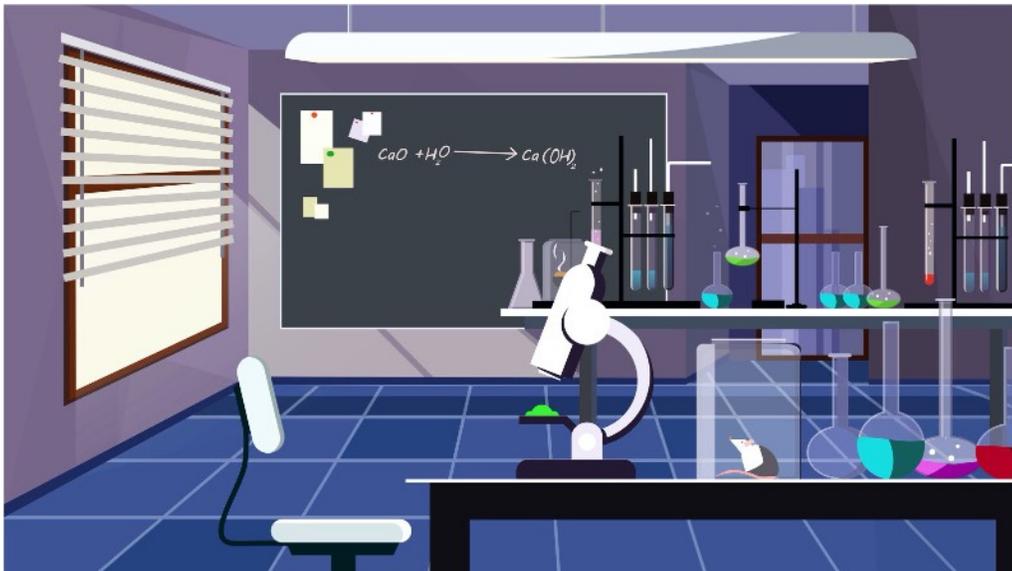
Melinda saw a cab.

It was a nice cab.

“I saw a cab,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice cab,” she
said.

Lab



Melinda saw a lab.

It was a nice lab.

“I saw a lab,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice lab,” she
said.

Bag



Melinda saw a bag.
It was a nice bag.
“I saw a bag,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice bag,” she
said.

Rag



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Melinda saw a rag.
It was a nice rag.
“I saw a rag,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice rag,” she
said.

Yam



Melinda saw a yam.

It was a nice yam.

“I saw a yam,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice yam,” she
said.

Can



Melinda saw a can.

It was a nice can.

“I saw a can,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice can,” she
said.

Fan



Melinda saw a fan.

It was a nice fan.

“I saw a fan,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice fan,” she
said.

Pan



Melinda saw a pan.

It was a nice pan.

“I saw a pan,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice pan,” she
said.

Van



Melinda saw a van.

It was a nice van.

“I saw a van,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice van,” she
said.

Cap



Melinda saw a cap.
It was a nice cap.
“I saw a cap,” said
Melinda.
“It was a nice cap,” she
said.

Map



Melinda saw a map.
It was a nice map.
“I saw a map,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice map,” she
said.

Bat



Melinda saw a bat.

It was a nice bat.

“I saw a bat,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice bat,” she
said.

Hat



Melinda saw a hat.

It was a nice hat.

“I saw a hat,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice hat,” she
said.

Mat



Melinda saw a mat.

It was a nice mat.

“I saw a mat,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice mat,” she
said.

Vat



Melinda saw a vat.

It was a nice vat.

“I saw a vat,” said
Melinda.

“It was a nice vat,” she
said.

Sax



Melinda saw a sax.

It was a nice sax.

“I saw a sax,” said
Melinda.

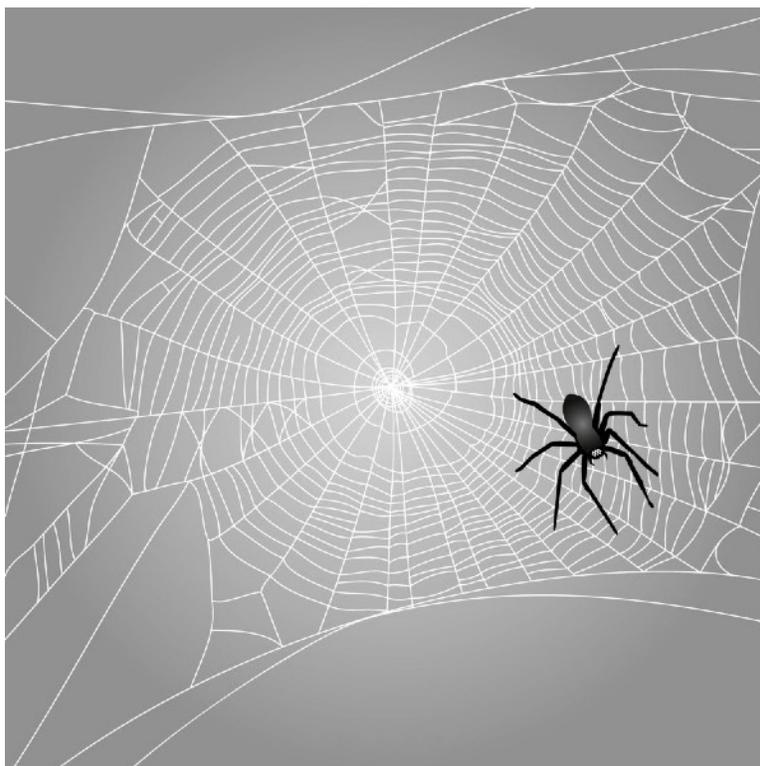
“It was a nice sax,” she
said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

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Melinda Saw a Web



By Clark Ness

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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

Fiction

Web



Melinda saw a web.

It was a cool web.

“I saw a web,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool web,” she
said.

Gem



Melinda saw a gem.
It was a cool gem.
“I saw a gem,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool gem,” she
said.

Pen



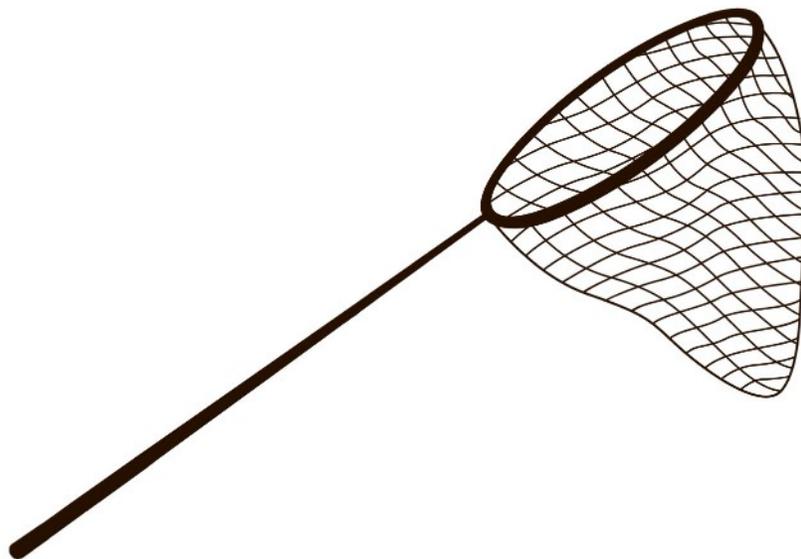
Melinda saw a pen.

It was a cool pen.

“I saw a pen,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool pen,” she
said.

Net



Melinda saw a net.

It was a cool net.

“I saw a net,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool net,” she
said.

Jet



Melinda saw a jet.

It was a cool jet.

“I saw a jet,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool jet,” she
said.

Wig



Melinda saw a wig.
It was a cool wig.
“I saw a wig,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool wig,” she
said.

Bin



Melinda saw a bin.

It was a cool bin.

“I saw a bin,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool bin,” she
said.

Fin



Melinda saw a fin.

It was a cool fin.

“I saw a fin,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool fin,” she
said.

Pin



Melinda saw a pin.
It was a cool pin.
“I saw a pin,” said
Melinda.
“It was a cool pin,” she
said.

Rod



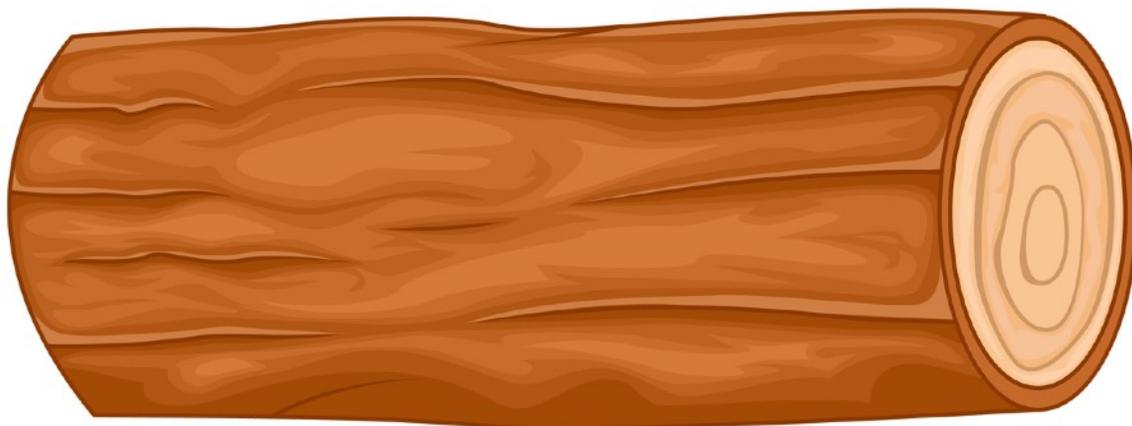
Melinda saw a rod.

It was a cool rod.

“I saw a rod,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool rod,” she
said.

Log



Melinda saw a log.
It was a cool log.
“I saw a log,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool log,” she
said.

Mop



Melinda saw a mop.
It was a cool mop.
“I saw a mop,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool mop,” she
said.

Top



Melinda saw a top.
It was a cool top.
“I saw a top,” said
Melinda.
“It was a cool top,” she
said.

Cot



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Melinda saw a cot.
It was a cool cot.
“I saw a cot,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool cot,” she
said.

Pot



Melinda saw a pot.

It was a cool pot.

“I saw a pot,” said
Melinda.

“It was a cool pot,” she
said.

Box



Melinda saw a box.
It was a cool box.
“I saw a box,” said
Melinda.
“It was a cool box,” she
said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

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Melinda Saw a Tub



By Clark Ness

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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

Fiction

Tub



Melinda saw a tub.
It was a neat tub.
“I saw a tub,” said
Melinda.

“It was a neat tub,” she
said.

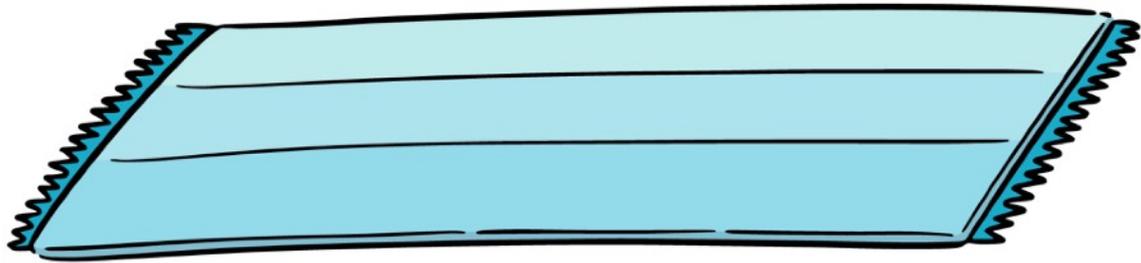
Jug



Melinda saw a jug.
It was a neat jug.
“I saw a jug,” said
Melinda.

“It was a neat jug,” she
said.

Rug



Melinda saw a rug.
It was a neat rug.
“I saw a rug,” said
Melinda.

“It was a neat rug,” she
said.

Bun



Melinda saw a bun.

It was a neat bun.

“I saw a bun,” said
Melinda.

“It was a neat bun,” she
said.

Cup



Melinda saw a cup.
It was a neat cup.
“I saw a cup,” said
Melinda.

“It was a neat cup,” she
said.

Bus



Melinda saw a bus.
It was a neat bus.
“I saw a bus,” said
Melinda.
“It was a neat bus,” she
said.

Hut



Melinda saw a hut.

It was a neat hut.

“I saw a hut,” said
Melinda.

“It was a neat hut,” she
said.

Nut



Melinda saw a nut.

It was a neat nut.

“I saw a nut,” said
Melinda.

“It was a neat nut,” she
said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

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Melinda Went to a Farm



By Clark Ness

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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.2

Fiction



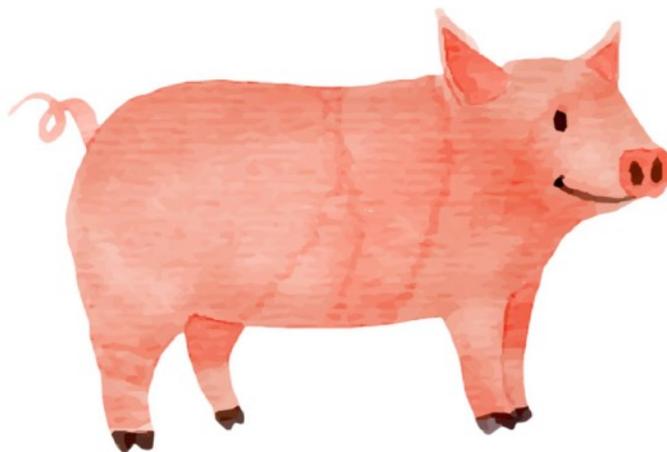
Melinda went to a
farm. She saw a
horse. It was a nice
horse.



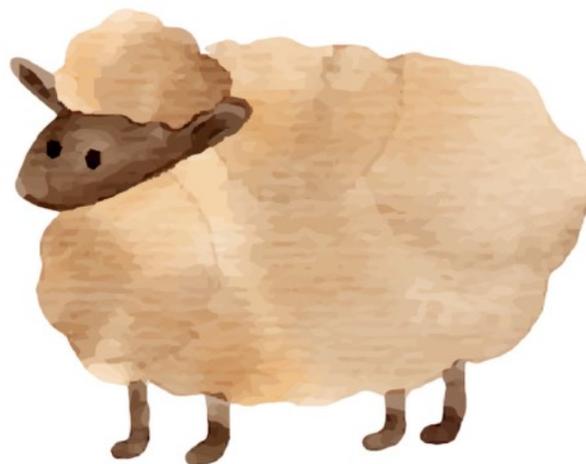
Melinda went to a
farm. She saw a
cow. It was a nice
COW.



Melinda went to a
farm. A donkey was
there. It was a nice
donkey.



Melinda went to a
farm. A pig was
there. It was a nice
pig.



Melinda went to a
farm. There was a
sheep. It was a nice
sheep.



Melinda went to a farm. There was a turkey. It was a nice turkey.



Melinda went to a
farm. It had a duck.
It was a nice duck.



Melinda went to a
farm. It had a
chicken. It was a
nice chicken.



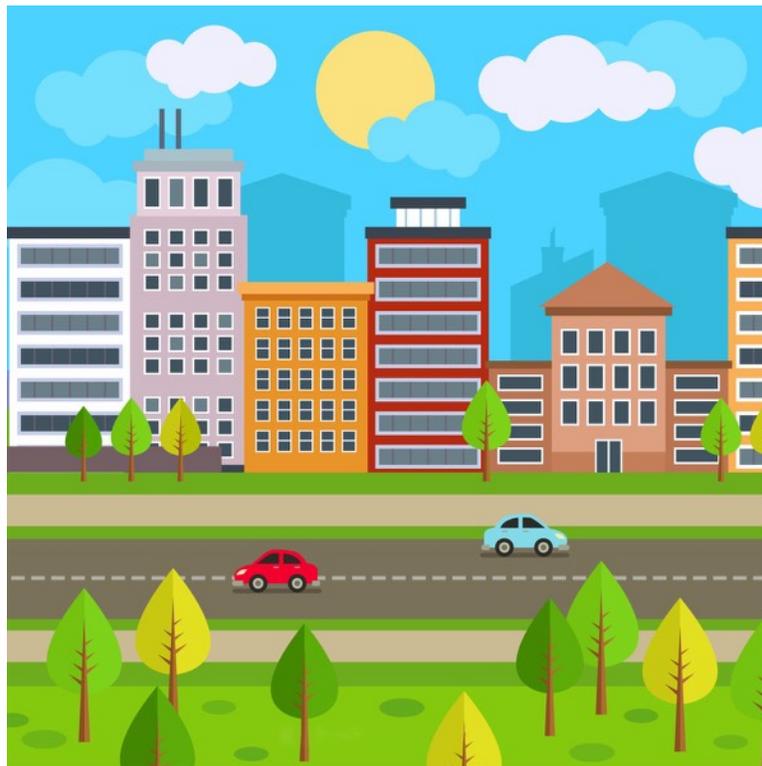
Melinda was
happy that she went
to a nice farm.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.2

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Melinda Went to a City

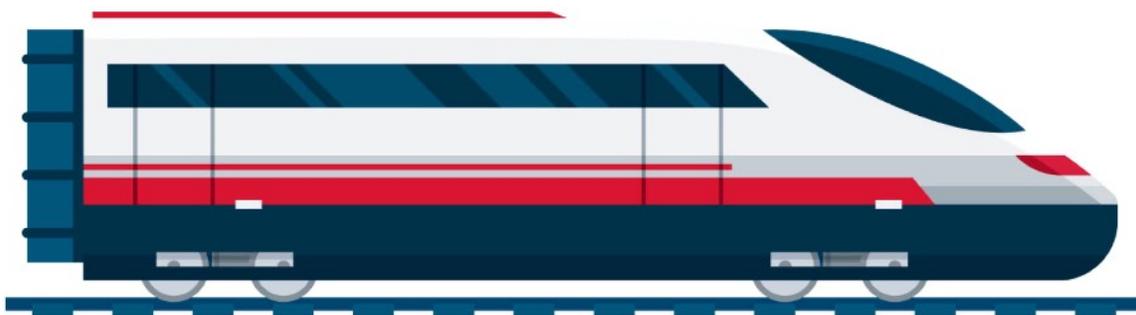


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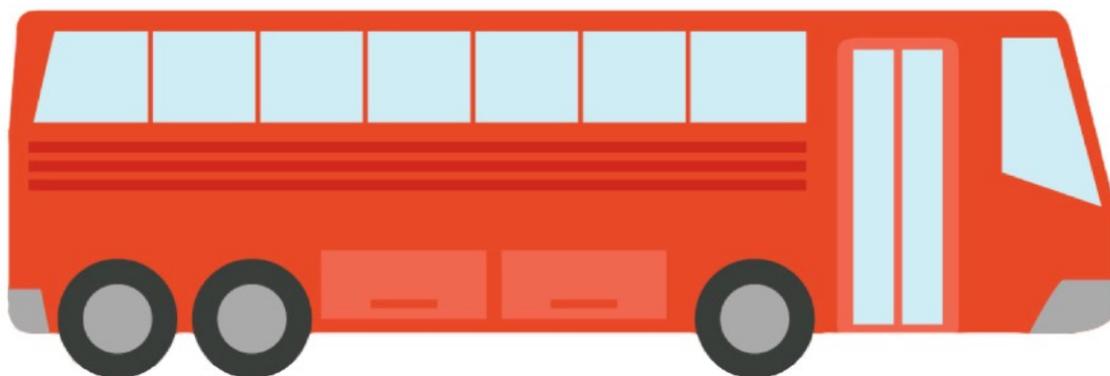
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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.4

Fiction



Melinda went to a
city. She saw a
train. It was a nice
train.



Melinda went to a
city. She saw a bus.
It was a nice bus.



Melinda went to a
city. A truck was
there. It was a nice
truck.



Melinda went to a city. A fire truck was there. It was a nice fire truck.



Melinda went to a
city. An ambulance
was there. It was a
nice ambulance.



Melinda went to a city. There was a police car. It was a nice police car.



Melinda went to a
city. There was a
taxi. It was a nice
taxi.



Melinda went to a city. There was a motorcycle. It was a nice motorcycle.



Melinda was
happy that she went
to a nice city.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.4

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Melinda Is In This Story



Bird

Cody was a bird. One day he flew past a cat. The cat was on a hill. "What are you doing?" Cody asked the cat.

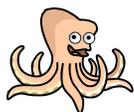
1



Falling Star

One night Cody was outside with his dad. "Help, help!" they heard from up in the sky. "Look, Dad. A star is falling," said Cody.

1



Octopus

One day Cody woke up. He was an octopus. "Mom, I am an octopus," said Cody.

1



Basketball

By Clark Ness

"Good morning, teacher," said Cody as he walked into his classroom before school. "Good morning," said his teacher who was sitting at the teacher's desk. "How can I help you?" "I want to be a basketball," said Cody. "Why do you want to be a basketball?" asked his teacher.

1

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By Clark Ness

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Bird

Melinda was a bird.
One day she flew past a
cat.

The cat was on a hill.

“What are you doing?”
Melinda asked the cat.



“I am sitting on a hill,”
said the cat.

“Come and fly with me,”
said Melinda.

“I cannot fly,” said the
cat.

“That is too bad,” said
Melinda.



“I will go and fly all around,” said Melinda.

“I will then come back and tell you all about it,” she said.

“That would be nice,” said the cat.



So Melinda went and
flew all around.

She then came back to
the cat.

Melinda told the cat
what she had seen.

The cat was happy.



“Thank you,” said the
cat.

“You are welcome,”
said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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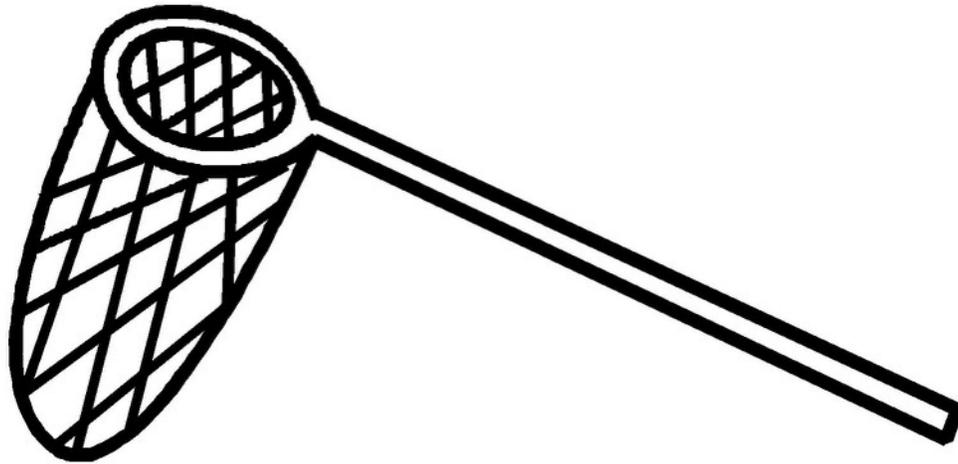


Falling Star

One night Melinda was outside with her dad.

"Help, help!" they heard from up in the sky.

"Look, Dad. A star is falling," said Melinda.



"What should we do?"
said her dad.

"I know what to do,"
said Melinda.

She ran and got a big
net.



Melinda took the net and quickly caught the star just before it hit the ground.

"Thanks for saving me," said the star.

"What should we do with this star now?" asked Melinda's dad.



"We need to throw it back up into the sky," said Melinda.

Melinda grabbed the star out of the net and threw it back up into the sky.



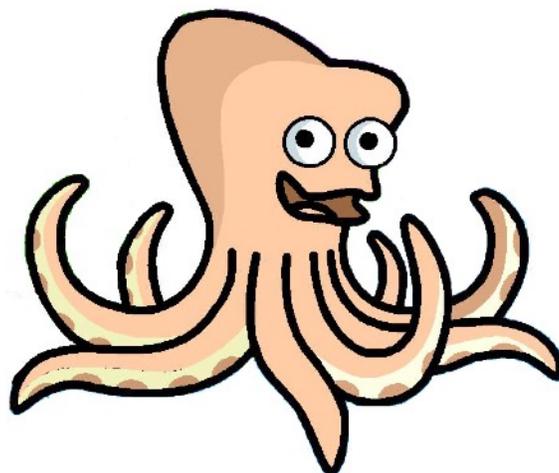
"Thanks so much," said the star from high up in the sky.

Melinda was proud that she had saved a falling star.

Flesch Kincaid Grade Level -0.1

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Octopus

One day Melinda woke up. She was an octopus.

“Mom, I am an octopus,” said Melinda.



“That is nice. Now figure out what to do with your eight arms,” said her mom.

Melinda thought and thought.

“I think I will play some music,” she said.



She got out a guitar and played it.

She got out a trumpet and played it.

She got out a drum and played it.

She then got out a maraca and played it.



“I bet I can play all of these at once with my eight arms,” said Melinda.

She picked up the maraca. She put the drum next to her. She picked up the trumpet. She then picked up the guitar.



She began to play music with the guitar, the trumpet, the drum, and the maraca.

“Your band sounds great,” said her mother.

“Thanks, Mom. It is fun to be a one octopus band,” said Melinda.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.0

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Basketball

By Clark Ness

“Good morning, Teacher,” said Melinda as she walked into her classroom before school.

“Good morning,” said her teacher who was sitting at the teacher’s desk. “How can I help you?”

“I want to be a basketball,” said Melinda.

“Why do you want to be a basketball?” asked her teacher.



“I think it would be fun to fly in the air and then go *swish* through the basketball net,” replied Melinda.

“Okay you can become a basketball. Please come over here,” said the teacher. Melinda’s teacher reached inside the teacher’s desk and pulled out the lucky buffalo coin. Melinda walked over to the teacher’s desk. Her teacher held the coin above Melinda’s head.

“Basketball, basketball, basketball,” said the teacher.



There was a loud *poof*, followed by some white smoke, and Melinda was a basketball.

One of Melinda's friends walked into the classroom just at that time.

"Do you want to go out and play basketball?" asked Melinda the basketball. Her friend stopped right in her tracks and looked at the talking basketball.

"How can a basketball talk?" she asked.



“It’s me, Melinda,” said Melinda. “Our teacher used the lucky buffalo coin and turned me into a basketball.”

“Boy, you must have done something really bad for our teacher to turn you into a basketball,” said the friend.

“No, I didn’t. I asked our teacher to turn me into a basketball because I wanted to be a basketball,” said Melinda with a big smile.



“You kids can go outside and play,” said the teacher. “You have about five minutes before school will start. Just remember to bring Melinda back inside.”

Melinda’s friend grabbed Melinda the basketball and ran outside with her.

“Cool basketball,” said the other kids on the playground.

“It is just me, your friend, Melinda,” said the basketball.

“Neat,” said the kids.



The kids all played basketball with Melinda the basketball.

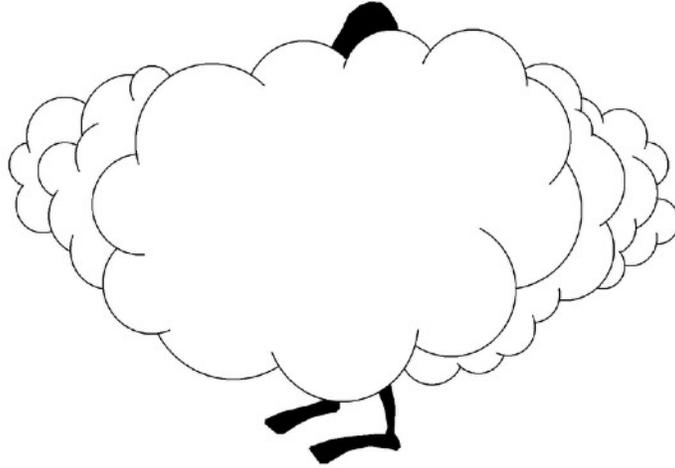
“Does it hurt being a basketball?” asked one of the friends.

“Not a bit,” said Melinda. “Shoot me through the hoop again.”

One of the kids picked up Melinda and took a shot. *Swish* went Melinda.

“That sure is fun,” said Melinda. “Thanks.”

The school bell then rang. Melinda’s friend went back into the classroom with Melinda and walked over to their teacher.



The teacher held up the lucky buffalo coin and said, “Melinda, Melinda, Melinda.” There was a *poof*, then some white smoke, and Melinda was Melinda the girl again.

“Thank you. It was a lot of fun being a basketball. Maybe tomorrow I can be a baseball,” said Melinda.

“I am glad you had fun. We can see about you being a baseball tomorrow. Now, time for school,” said the teacher.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 2.6

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